

Last week, President Bush issued a strong statement commemorating National Arts and Humanities Month and acknowledging the special role of the arts in these challenging times. I commend the President for his eloquent statement, and I ask unanimous consent that it may be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, October 25, 2001.

I am pleased to join my fellow Americans in observing National Arts and Humanities Month in October.

The arts and humanities enrich our lives, inspire our hearts and minds, and help us to view the world from a different perspective. Capturing the diversity and richness of human experience, they allow us to explore ideas and emotions and to better understand our history, culture, and beliefs. The study and appreciation of the arts and humanities serve as both a unifying force in society and as a vehicle for individual expression.

During these extraordinary times, the arts and humanities have provided means for coping and healing in the face of tragedy. Since the September 11 attacks, individuals and groups throughout our country have joined together to celebrate their patriotism by proudly singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America." Others have expressed their grief by creating visual or written tributes to those who lost their lives. People of all ages have documented their personal experiences, firsthand knowledge, and impressions of recent events to create a lasting historical record for future generations.

These varied activities point to the vital importance of the arts and humanities in maintaining a vibrant society and a strong democracy. During National Arts and Humanities Month, I encourage all Americans to reflect on the contributions of these creative and intellectual traditions to our quality of life, and to participate in activities that celebrate the spirit of our Nation and our love for freedom, justice, and peace.

Best wishes on this special occasion.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR BENCESLADO RAEI UPON HIS RETIREMENT

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a fellow New Mexican who is retiring after 32 years of dedicated service with the United States Air Force and the New Mexico Army National Guard. Sergeant Major Benceslado "Ben" Rael has made duty, honor and service the hallmarks of his career and is a shining example of a true American patriot.

Ben was born in Truchas, NM in 1941 and graduated from St. Michael's High School in 1960; he also received his A.A. from Wilber Wright College in 1973. Upon joining the Air Force, he immediately made an impact as a recruiting and retention specialist where he helped countless young people find a confidence and self-esteem building career in the United States Armed Forces.

Ben's skills in recruiting did not go unnoticed. Upon joining the New Mexico Army National Guard, Ben was assigned the position of Vice Chairman of the Guard's National Recruiting and Retention advisory Council. Again, Ben showed himself to be a tremendous asset in keeping the National Guard vibrant in New Mexico.

Ben has made all of New Mexico proud, and in tribute, Governor Johnson has proclaimed October 31, 2001 as "Sergeant Major Benceslado Rael Day." I want to take this opportunity to join with the Governor, and indeed with all New Mexicans, in saluting Ben on a job well done and in wishing him many years of happiness in his retirement.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EXPANSION OF YOUNG ISRAEL OF OAK PARK, MI

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate join me today in congratulating the Young Israel congregation of Oak Park, MI, on completion of recent expansion of the synagogue's facilities. Since 1954, Young Israel has been serving the spiritual needs of its congregation as well as the community at large.

From its humble beginnings, Young Israel of Oak Park has grown to become the largest Orthodox Jewish congregation in the State of Michigan. Originally founded as Young Israel of Oak-Woods, the temple served the communities of Oak Park and Huntington Woods. Six years later, Young Israel of Greenfield opened its doors in the adjoining community. For over a quarter century, the two temples offered a sanctuary where the respective congregations could meet.

Then in 1997, in response to changing demographics and a desire to better serve their neighborhoods, the temples merged to create Young Israel of Oak Park. Soon after the merger, they embarked on an ambitious expansion project to provide more opportunity for communal celebration and prayer. In June of this year, the synagogue's stunning new sanctuary and social hall were completed.

Today's congregation is not only a center of Torah study, but also a forum where young and old, rich and poor, come together to share their beliefs, desires, and fears. At the same time, the temple plays a central role in maintaining the stability and vitality of the Orthodox Jewish population of South East Michigan.

For nearly 50 years, the Young Israel congregation has been a spiritual and social home for many in Michigan's Orthodox Jewish community. I trust that my Senate colleagues will join me in congratulating Young Israel of Oak Park on nearly a half century of growth and wish them the best in the coming years.●

UNITED STEELWORKERS OF AMERICA OPPOSITION TO ANWR DRILLING

• Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask that a statement by David Foster of the United Steelworkers of America be printed in the RECORD.

The statement follows:

OPPOSITION TO DRILLING IN THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Intelligent approaches to energy development are needed at a time when energy security, economic development, and environmental protection are more important than ever.

USWA District #11 represents thousands of workers in the Pacific Northwest's energy-intensive aluminum industry where 40% of the nation's aluminum capacity is located. The recent West Coast energy crisis that resulted in the shutdown of all ten of that region's aluminum smelters awakened our union to the need for a comprehensive energy policy based on sound environmental principles. We are currently working to help transition the industry to a cleaner, safer, and more dependable mix of energy sources that will help preserve industrial jobs in the United States and lead the industry toward energy self-sufficiency.

I believe that the best long-term solution to retaining aluminum jobs in the Northwest is 1) by reducing demand through energy efficiency and conservation, and 2) by increasing the supply of diversified energy sources including clean, renewable energy generated by wind, solar, and geothermal power. This combination would minimize the environmental impacts related to energy extraction and use, create good, family-wage jobs, and protect consumers from supply disruptions and price fluctuations.

Consequently, I am convinced that drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is not a sensible option. Rather, it is a short-sighted remedy that is unreliable, environmentally unsound, and fraught with economic shortcomings. As a better alternative, I would encourage the building of a new natural gas pipeline where existing supplies of natural gas can be captured.

In particular, I would recommend that the infrastructure for a gas pipeline be developed on the North Slope to bring to market gas currently being shunted back into the ground or flared off. A new Environmental Impact Statement must be completed prior to construction, and North American, rather than imported, steel should be utilized for the construction of the pipeline. This natural gas project would produce many times more jobs and be safer for workers than drilling in the Refuge, and would increase the supply of a cleaner and more valuable energy source, without posing severe threats to sensitive wildlife and tundra.●

WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, rapid population growth and urbanization place substantial pressure on the transportation, sanitation, health care, and education infrastructure in our country and throughout the world. It is important to recognize the impact that these forces have on our natural resources and our quality of life. I applaud Governor Hodges for proclaiming the week of October 21 to October 27 of this year as World Population Awareness Week in the great State of South Carolina.